

Current Observations.

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During a short visit to Port Willunga at the end of April a young Mutton' Bird (*Neonectris tenuirostris brevicandus*) was driven ashore by the storm and caught alive. It was in a most emaciated condition, and continually making a pitiful peeping cry. A small tuft of down was showing at the base of the neck either side. There was nothing in the stomach.

On the 30th April a large well-nourished specimen of the same species was washed up dead. Under the skin over most of the surface was a layer of fat fully half an inch thick. The whole of the abdominal organs were immersed in fat; every possible space being closely packed with fat. There was a little slimy green material in the stomach.

On the 29th April we found a Blue Petrel (*Halobaena caerulea*) lying on the jetty. Evidently it had only been dead a few hours, as the muscles were still stiff; the wings were spread out, and it had evidently settled on the jetty in a dying condition some time during the night or early morning, as we found it quite early. I could find no cause of death other than its extremely impoverished condition. There was no fat, in fact hardly any flesh at all on the bones; the stomach was empty.

During the month of April and the first two weeks of May Lorikeets have been very numerous around Blackwood. *Glossopsitta concinna* and *G. porphyrocephala* were in great numbers, and small flocks of *G. pusilla* and *Trichoglossus novæ hollandiæ*.

No doubt the heavy blooming of the Peppermints (*Eucalyptus odorata*) is the chief reason, and this may also account for their not having damaged the fruit in the Wittunga orchard this year.

The Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus elegans adelaidæ*) has been rather numerous here; as a rule they are rarely seen this western side of the Coromandel Valley.

During April the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Neochalites basilis mellori*) and the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus*) were both heard and seen several times at "Wittunga."